THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, 5th July 1952.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, Madras, at half past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

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I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Reduction in the dearness allowance for nurses.

* 36 *Q.*—SRI S. RAMALINGAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the dearness allowance for nurses was reduced recently; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" (*a*) The answer is in the negative.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM:—" Were any allowances allowed to the nurses, other than dearness allowance, reduced recently? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member may put a separate question."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI:—" Was the dearness allowance in any way reduced? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" The dearness allowance was enhanced with effect from 1st January 1948 for all Government servants. The nurses were also drawing a ration allowance of Rs. 20 per mensem. This ration allowance was increased to Rs. 30 per mensem and according to the rules laid down, those who draw ration allowance cannot draw the enhanced rates of dearness allowance. So, Sir, the enhanced rates of dearness allowance were not allowed with effect from 12th July 1949 as the ration allowance was increased from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 per mensem. The total emoluments, however, did not suffer in any way. In fact they get Rs. 2 extra."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM:—" Will the Government consider enhancing their dearness allowance also in future? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" Sir, the nurses are already getting many other concessions, like rent-free quarters, free supply of electricity, dhobi allowance, uniform allowance, etc."

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SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I know the amount of dhobi allowance given? I understand it is Rs. 2 per mensem, but the nurses are obliged to spend on this account Rs. 8 to Rs. 10. And so, will the Hon. Minister consider the desirability of increasing the dhobi allowance?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I think the dhobi allowance is Rs. 2 per mensem."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Was the ration allowance given before the increase in prices, say in 1939 also?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The ration allowance was being given; but it was enhanced because the prices had gone up."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU :—" May I know, Sir, in view of the fact that the dhobi charges they are paying come to Rs. 8 per mensem, whether the Government will consider the question of enhancing the dhobi allowance to Rs. 8 per mensem?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have no information about the dhobi charges which the nurses have to incur, Sir."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" In view of the fact that prices of rations have increased by nearly 4½ times since 1939, will the Government increase the ration allowance also at least by 50 per cent?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The ration allowance was increased because prices went up."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" In view of the fact that the ration allowance and other allowances were given to meet personal expenditure, will the Government consider the desirability of increasing the dearness allowance as it is meant for the family?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, all these are questions of policy in finance and I understand the Opposition is preparing for financial sabotage. We are trying our best to put a barrage against this."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" May I know, Sir, whether any question relating to the emoluments and amenities to Government employees means 'financial sabotage' and will the Hon. the Chief Minister give this House the benefit of his definition of 'financial sabotage'?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I shall give it, Sir, on a proper occasion, but not at question time."

Elections to Municipal Councils, District Boards and Panchayats.

* 37 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the elections to Municipal Councils, District Boards and Panchayat Boards are scheduled to take place on the basis of adult suffrage;